There’s nothing like a good book

October is National Book Month, a time to celebrate and rededicate yourself to reading a good book. But cracking open the pages of a good novel these days means turning on your laptop, tablet or e-reader device and looking at an illuminated screen. The new digital age of books has its charms, and certainly its conveniences, but nothing will ever replace the visceral satisfaction of a paper and cardboard book. Here are five reasons why real books are better than their electronic cousins:

No batteries included, or even needed – you never have to plan your reading time around charging time or your next trip to the store for some AAA batteries.

Water won’t kill a book – if you spill water on it or even drop it in a pool, your paper book will still work. Forever.

Décor – try as you may, you can never fill a bookcase with e-book files. Plus, bookshelves give a home ambiance and provide a window into your soul. When your guests see a shelf full of Stephen King novels, they know exactly who their dealing with.

The book “experience” – paper books just feel good in your hands. They don’t feel cold and tinny at first touch, and they don’t get hot after an hour of use. And the sound of a book’s spine cracking for the first time is like a symphony.

Sharing – lending a book to a friend is like an extended visit, a shared experience, or even an expression of affection.

Celebrate National Book Month with a good read, and when you are done, share it with a good friend.